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— Congress has passed a bill appropriating \$250,000 for a fire-proof National Museum, adjoining the Smithsonian Institution.

— According to *Nature*, the widow of the late Prof. Eichwald has presented the remarkable palæontological collections of her husband to the St. Petersburg University. The collection contains upwards of 30,000 specimens of fossils, from the various formations of Western Europe, from the Petchora Land, from the Aleutians islands, Siberia, Crimea, etc.

— *Vögelbilder aus fernen Zonen*, is the title of an atlas of foreign birds, just published by Fischer, of Cassel, under the care of Dr. Ant. Reichenow. It is noticed favorably by *Nature*.

— Fresh attention is drawn to the study of microscopic organisms by the appearance of part one, of the third volume of Stein's great work on Infusoria; as well as by a translation of Bütschli's essay on the Flagellate Infusoria (referring to H. James Clark's work done on American forms), and also by H. B. Brady's descriptions of deep sea Rhizopods in the *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science*.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Dec. 9, 1878.—Prof. Henry Wurtz exhibited a large series of the minerals from the Silver Islet, Lake Superior, and described under the name of Huntelite (in honor of Prof. T. Sterry Hunt), a new species of silver ore from that locality. Huntelite occurs both massive and minutely crystallized, and is essentially an arsenide of silver, occupying the gap in mineralogy between dyscrasite and domeykite; dyad metals, especially nickel, appear to have replaced some part of the silver, and antimony a small part of the arsenic. Prof. Wurtz gave minute and laborious analyses and many interesting details.

Dec. 23d.—Mr. A. A. Julian made a communication on the glacial excavation of the Kaaterskill Clove. Mr. B. B. Chamberlin exhibited a series of minerals from the zinc and lead mines of Wisconsin.

Jan. 6, 1879.—Dr. Ephraim Cutter addressed the Academy on Tolles' one-seventy-fifth-inch objective—its history, construction and use (with sciopticon illustrations).

Jan. 13.—Prof. Henry Wurtz presented before the Chemical Section, further particulars of his new mineral, Huntelite, from the Silver Isles of Lake Superior.

Jan. 20th.—Mr. S. W. Ford read a paper on the structure and development of certain primordial trilobites. Mr. A. A. Julian remarked on the conglomerate from the sand-beds of South-eastern New Jersey. Dr. R. P. Stevens made a communication on the glacial moraine at Jamaica, Long Island.

Jan. 27th.—At a meeting of the section of Biology Dr. Charles

F. Taylor presented the results of some practical studies in Psycho-biology, with especial reference to the influence of mental states on disease.

March 3.—Mr. W. R. Gerard read a Note on the influence of sulphurous acid gas on coniferous trees.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, Feb. 27.—Lieut. T. B. M. Mason, U.S.N., read a paper entitled the Preservation of life at sea.

March 11.—Gen. R. E. Colston lectured upon Life in the eastern and western deserts of Egypt and the Soudan, among the Bedouin tribes, with a description of their manners and customs, the waterless land, the mirage, the animals—especially the camel.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Feb. 19.—Mr. H. G. Kittredge read a paper on the Natural history of Cotton. Mr. L. S. Burbank made a communication on the Clay beds of ancient estuaries.

March 5.—Prof. W. G. Farlow read a paper on North American Characeæ, and Mr. W. O. Crosby spoke concerning a possible origin of petrosilicious rocks.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, March 12.—Mr. G. F. Hammett read a paper on the Practical application of mountain sketching, and Mr. W. O. Crosby spoke on the Pitch Lake of Trinidad.

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## SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

SIEBOLD AND KOLLIKER'S ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR WISSENSCHAFTLICHE ZOOLOGIE.—December 19, 1878. The sexual organs of Cephalopoda, by J. Brock. Sixth paper on the structure and development of sponges, by F. E. Schulze. Studies on the anatomy of breathing organs—I. On the anatomy of the gills of *Serpula*, by L. Löwe.

BULLETIN OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE TERRITORIES, Vol. v, No. 1.—Notes on the Aphididæ of the United States, with descriptions of species occurring west of the Mississippi, by C. V. Riley and J. Monell. The relations of the horizons of extinct vertebrata of Europe and North America, by E. D. Cope. Observations on the faunæ of the Miocene Tertiaries of Oregon, by E. D. Cope. Notes on the birds of Fort Sisseton, Dakota Territory, by C. E. McChesney. Palæontological papers—No. 9. Fossils of the Jura-Trias of South-eastern Idaho, by C. A. White. Jura-Trias section of South-eastern Idaho and Western Wyoming, by A. C. Peale. Fossil forests of the volcanic Tertiary formations of the Yellowstone National Park, by W. H. Holmes. Palæontological papers—No. 10. Conditions of preservation of invertebrate fossils, by C. A. White. Supplement to the bibliography of North American invertebrate palæontology, by C. A. White and H. A. Nicholson.